

June 11, 1999

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Jane Henney, M.D.
Commissioner
Food & Drug Administration (HF-1)
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. Henney:

There is a public health crisis looming that is very disconcerting. That is, the overuse of antibiotics by physicians, hospitals, and livestock producers. To preserve these priceless drugs, doctors and hospitals must prescribe them judiciously. But animal agriculture must also do its part. About a third of the antibiotics manufactured in the U.S. each year are added to animal feed to fatten animals cheaply - even though there are other ways to produce safe meat at reasonable prices.

The World Health Organization recommends a ban on the use of medically important antibiotics to promote animal growth. The United States should also do the same. Withdrawal of the drugs for growth promotion would still allow their use in sick animals.

Please favor sick children over cheap chicken.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Emily M. Kowalewski
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